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Student/Teacher Ratio in Core Classes

Submitted by Fred Mynard/Senate Executive Committee

9/4/2012

Question:

What is the ratio of students to teachers in core curriculum courses, sorted by College and, if possible, by course number for the following period: Academic year 2006-2007 through Academic year 2011-2012?

Rationale:

Even with such measures as Supplementary Instruction, class size--especially in core curriculum courses—has some bearing on teachers' and students' collaboration in teaching and learning. The data requested would be an early step in our discussion of how best to educate, retain, and graduate students with meaningful degrees.

This item is submitted on behalf of the Senate Executive Committee.

Response:

The Senate Executive Committee has directed these to the Provost.

Update 02/20/2013: the Provost has provided extensive data on class size, sorted in various ways, and gathered in the following files:

- [Average Class Size by Depart and Level \(F01-F12\) - all.](#)
- [cirfac fall 09 teaching loads.pdf](#)
- [cirfac fall 10 teaching loads.pdf](#)
- [cirfac fall 11 teaching loads.pdf](#)
- [cirfac fall 12 teaching loads.pdf](#)
- [Class Enrollment Size Fall 01-12 va - develop.pdf](#)
- [Class Enrollment Size Fall 01-12 va.xls](#)
- [Class Size 2001-2012 \(1\).pdf](#)
- [Class Size 2001-2012 \(1\).pptx](#)

Mynard noted that the dataset recently supplied by President Keel in response to last fall's RFI about class sizes is huge and will require time to digest, so there would be no extensive discussion at this time. He did, however, go through some charts supplied in PowerPoint by the President. (*Secretary's Note: This detailed verbal description of visual charts coincides with a particularly difficult-to-hear stretch in the recording. See the data and charts linked here.*)

- [Average Class Size by Depart and Level \(F01-F12\) - all](#)
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President Keel reiterated that there are many ways to evaluate, display, and graph the data; that people may choose other variables than he did; and that the charts represent a summary, not the actual data. One interesting "snapshot" is for fall 2012, showing those departments that have class sizes well above average. For him, this represents a strategic target: Those departments have a need for more faculty so this load can be distributed. This does not mean that those departments that fall below that average amount do not need more faculty, but this is one way to use "this monster of a document." He asked that we take his example with a grain of salt.

Provost Bartels noted some (not all) of the data that can be gleaned for 2009-2012: averages for how many adjuncts, temporary, and full-time regular faculty we have; and averages for those across colleges, departments, and exact courses. This data allows us "to slice down into a lot of layers to be able to look at where the issues are"; as well as class size, we can get a sense of what we are doing with hiring of adjuncts, temporary faculty, and regular faculty, and what the course loads look like for each of those groups.

Candy Schille (CLASS) asked President Keel if, with this new data in hand, he would still say that the average class size at Georgia Southern is 22 students per faculty member.

President Keel said there is a nationally prescribed way to calculate data that produced that 22/1 number, but there are lots of other ways to calculate the data too.